

The Desert News

Salt Lake City, Utah, Thursday, August 24, 1939.



Camp Floyd, Pony Express Station, Marked
Maxine Carson and Iola Carson unveil a monument at Fairfield under the direction of Joseph Wirthlin, chairman, and James H. Gardner, who dedicated it.



The pony express rider is the symbol of western courage and adventure.

was also a main station for the freighting companies and the Overland mail. When Ben Holladay bought out the interest of Russell, Majors, and Waddell, and operated stagecoaches across the country, Fort Bridger became an important post along this route. In addition to this, Fort Bridger was also on the route of the Overland telegraph which was begun at the time the pony express was still in operation. Financed by the federal government, the Overland Telegraph Company from the east and the Pacific Telegraph Company from the west began erecting poles and stringing wires across the continent. After setting the first pole in July 1861, they raced to complete the task. The eastern section of the line passed Fort Bridger, and the crews working from the west coast met with the eastern line in Salt Lake City, thus joining the nation together by wire. Fort Bridger was an important junction point and relay station for the Overland telegraph.

Civil War Period

Captain Jesse A. Gove, Tenth Infantry, assumed command of Fort Bridger on 29 May 1861, remaining until August 9 of that year when the federal government withdrew almost all of their troops at the outbreak of the Civil War. Colonel Philip St. George Cooke of the Second Cavalry closed down Camp

*"Fort Bridger
Station"*



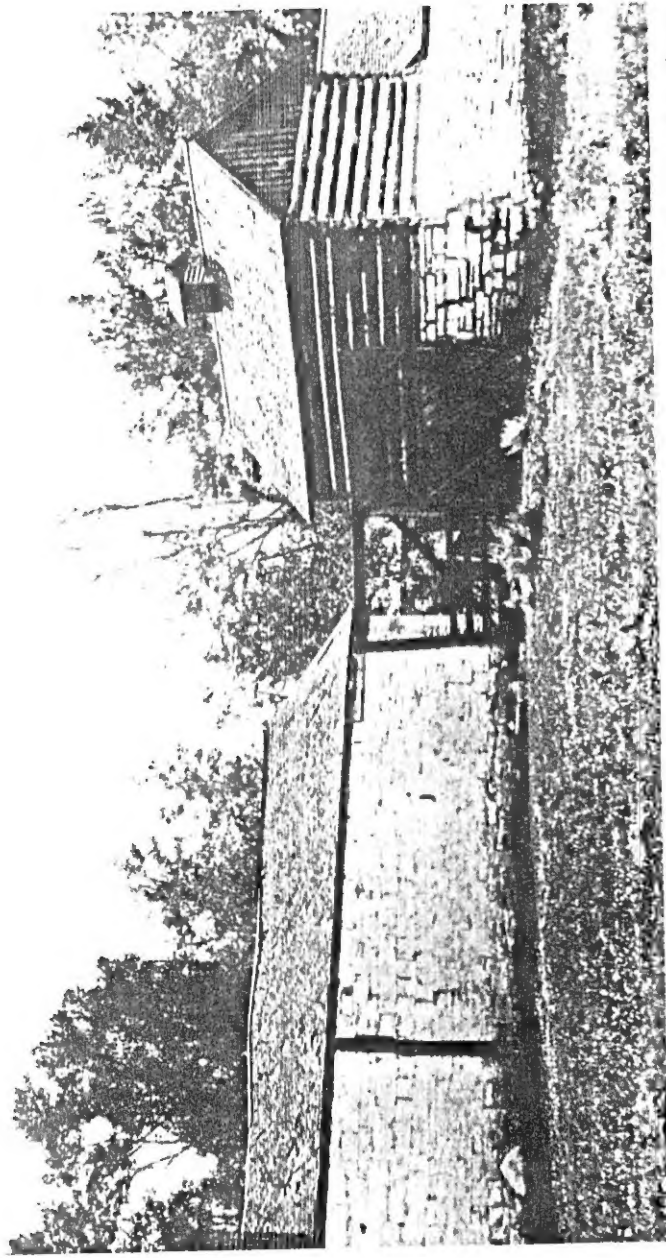
These pony express buildings were constructed and preserved at the fort.

Floyd (then named Camp Crittenden) in Utah, and ordered that Fort Bridger sell most of its supplies at auction. Only a small force under Captain J. C. Clark, Fourth Artillery, stayed to man the post. Captain Gove gained his wish to be in the thick of the fight and was killed in the battle of Gaines Mill, Virginia, on 22 June 1862.

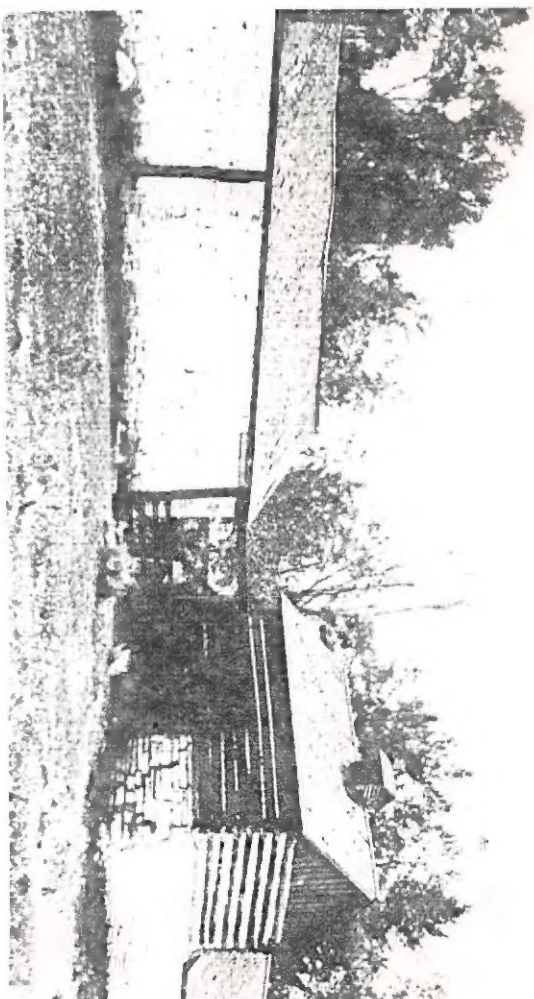
With the announcement of the supply auction at Fort Bridger, the Mormons, under the leadership of Lewis Robison, who had been the Mormon leader at Fort Bridger at the time of the withdrawal, once again began to assert their claims to the post. The government had never honored Robison's claims primarily because they did not honor Bridger's claim, and Robison had made his purchase of the fort from Bridger. But in 1861, with the withdrawal of the troops from Fort Bridger and the announcement of a public sale in July of that year, Lewis Robison wrote a letter to his friend, the commanding officer of the Mormon Militia, Daniel H. Wells, as follows:

*Green River Territory
July 17, 1861*

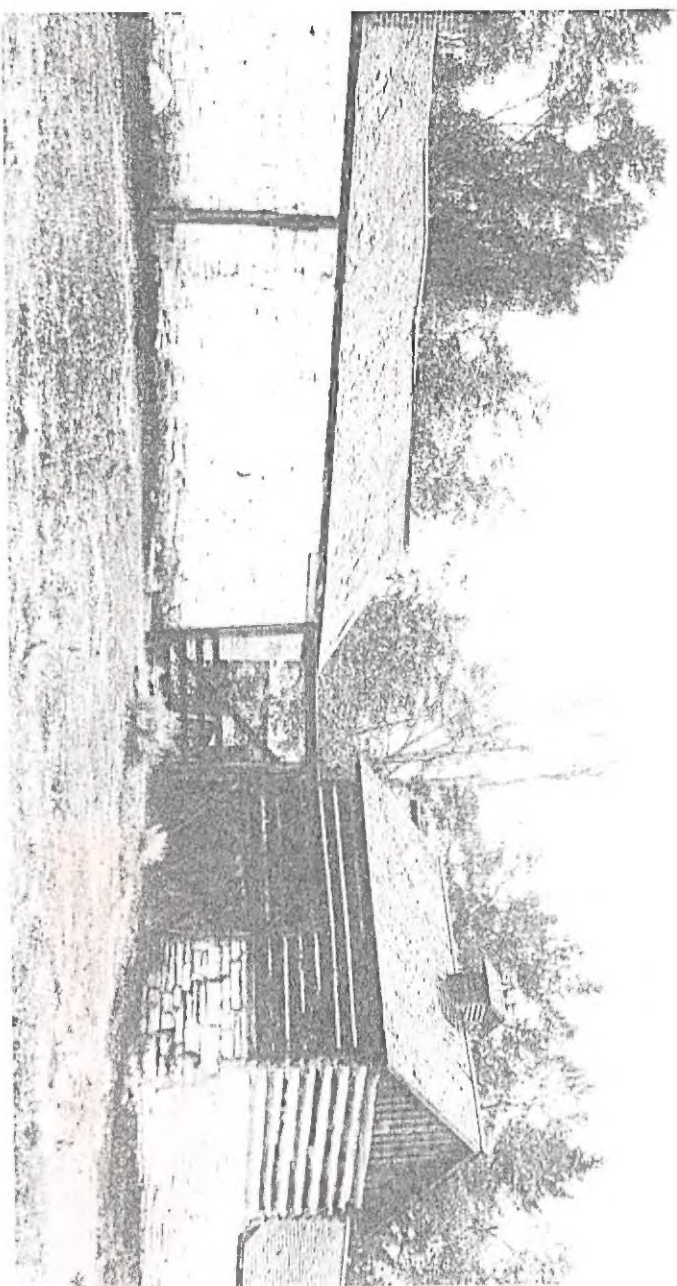
Dear Brother, I have just received notice of sale of public property at Fort Bridger which is to commence on the 26 of July. I expect to be at the sale. I have not learned whether they intend to sell the land improvements or not, but if so I suppose it would be well to enter a protest against such a sale. Should



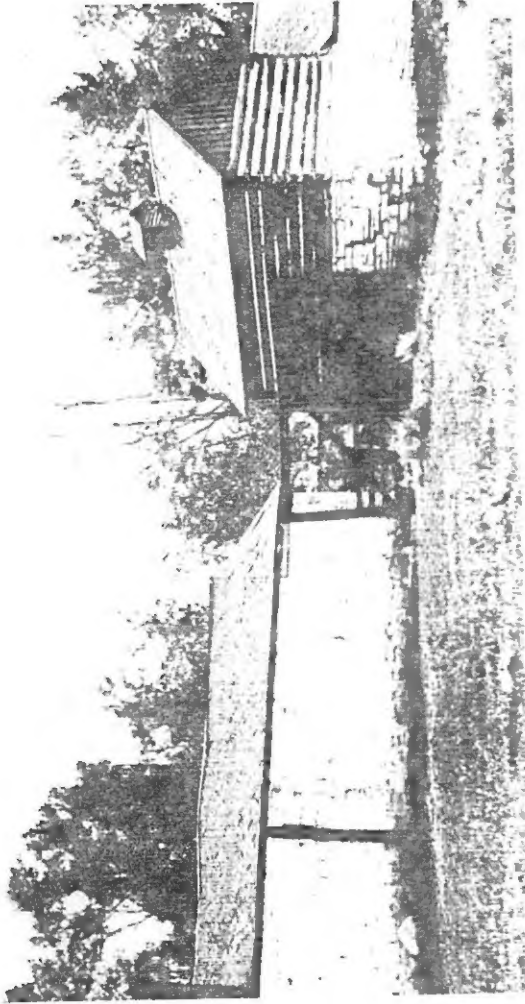
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Fort Bridger, Wyoming



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